**ELECTION 2012**

**FACT SHEET: ALABAMA**

Entering office amid an economic crisis, President Obama has consistently fought for the middle class, protecting children, and education. Here is just some of what has been achieved in Alabama.

**Strengthening the middle class**

- The current **tax system is NOT fair**: In 2010, Alabama corporations paid $430 million in state income taxes and individuals paid $2.6 billion — **six times more**. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *State Government Tax Collections Summary Report: 2010*)

- The Social Security payroll tax cut instituted by President Obama is a first step to leveling the playing field — **$1,000 more in take-home pay** for a middle class family earning $50,000 a year. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury)

- Over the last two decades, on average the income of the **richest 20%** of families in Alabama rose by nearly $34,000 while the income of the **poorest 20%** of families in Alabama remained about the same. For details, see [http://bit.ly/iyi6H](http://bit.ly/iyi6H). (Source: *Pulling Apart: A State by State Analysis of Income Trends*, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, 2008)

**Making college affordable**

- President Obama has preserved **Pell grants** for nearly **140,000 students** in Alabama. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make **college tuition** affordable for **154,000 families** in Alabama. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis)
Supporting educators, modernizing schools

- As a result of President Obama’s support for the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law in August 2010, Alabama received $150 million that helped keep teachers in the classroom, limit increases in class size, and contain layoffs of counselors, classroom aides, and other education support professionals. At its peak, the Education Jobs Fund supported more than 2,800 education jobs throughout the state. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2009, funded nearly 4,000 education jobs in Alabama. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $452 million for education jobs, $390 million to modernize schools, and $68 million for community colleges in Alabama. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care

- In 2011, Alabama received $863,000 for school-based health centers that provide screenings, conduct health promotion and disease prevention activities, and enable children with acute or chronic illnesses to attend school. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration)

- The Affordable Care Act has brought peace of mind to 2.6 million people in Alabama — they no longer have to worry about lifetime limits. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)

- In 2011, nearly 20,000 young adults in Alabama could remain on their parents’ health plans until age 26 — and that number will grow in 2012. Before the Affordable Care Act, many college graduates and other young adults had no insurance. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)